

Remarks

Claims 6 and 16 have been canceled; claims 1 and 10 have been amended; and claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-23 are presently pending. The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 19-23 is noted with appreciation.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6, now cancelled, is dependent from claim 1, and claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of claim 6. Thus, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from claim 1. Since claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from claim 1, the same distinctions between the cited art and the claimed invention in independent claim 1 apply for these claims. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that claims 1-5 and 7-10 are in condition for allowance, and such a notice is respectfully requested.

Claim 16, now cancelled, is dependent from claim 10, and claim 10 has been amended to include all limitations of claim 16. Thus, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 11-15 and 17-18 depend from claim 10. Since claims 11-15 and 17-18 depend from claim 10, the same distinctions between the cited art and the claimed invention in independent claim 10 apply for these claims. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that claims 10-15 and 17-18 are in condition for allowance, and such a notice is respectfully requested.

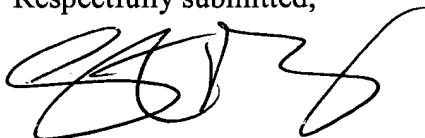
Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-23 are now in condition for allowance, and such a notice is respectfully requested.

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The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,




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